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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates under section 7, International Court of Justice, section 32, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from staff assessment

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 for the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/55/21). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 8 and 17 of the report, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/250 A of 23 December 1999, approved appropriations totalling $20,864,500 under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001; however, owing to the large increase in the Court's caseload, the Secretary-General requests an additional appropriation of $606,100 under section 7 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 in order to allow the Court to discharge its functions. An additional appropriation of $131,200 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 10 to 12 of the report that the impact of the increase in the workload is felt the most in the Conference and Language Services of the Registry of the Court. These services are responsible for the provision of translation and interpretation for the Court. The work of the Conference and Language Services is currently carried out by six staff members (one P-5, four P-4 and one P-3) as well as by freelance translators and interpreters. Translation of less sensitive materials, such as annexes to pleadings, is usually done by external translators.

4. To address the needs of the Court, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 13 and 16 that the Secretary-General proposes to establish 12 temporary posts for translators (three P-4 and nine P-3) and two General Service posts at a cost

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of $488,700. The Committee was informed that establishing these temporary posts was less expensive than hiring freelance and external translators.

5. In addition, as indicated in paragraph 15 of the report, it is estimated that $117,400 would be needed for temporary assistance to meetings, to cover the cost of hiring five additional typists for four work-months and one proof-reader to assist at peak workload periods, when hearings are held.

6. **The Committee recalls the views indicated in its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[1] in which the Committee noted that, subsequent to the submission of the estimates for 2000-2001, there had been a dramatic increase in the number of cases before the Court that resulted in a heavier workload for the Court. Under the circumstances, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an additional appropriation of $606,100 under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and an additional appropriation of $131,200 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7), para. III.3.